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T-688 P.041/049 F-117

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of:

**W. THIELE
K. WILDNER
H. MATSCHINER
S. PRIGGEMEYER
W. HARNISCHMACHER
P. ROHRIG**

Case No.: 60210-USA

Serial No 09/830,617

Group Art Unit: **UNKNOWN**

Filed: **APRIL 27, 2001**

EXAMINER: UNKNOWN

FOR: CIRCULAR METHOD FOR PICKLING COPPER AND COPPER ALLOYS

Hon. Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Before examining the application, please cancel claims 1-15 and substitute therefore the following claims:

- 1 16. (newly presented) A continuous method for pickling copper or a
- 2 copper alloy, the method comprising the steps of:
- 3 (a) pickling the copper or copper alloy with a pickling solution and
- 4 producing a spent pickling solution;
- 5 (b) regenerating the spent pickling solution to produce a regenerated
- 6 pickling solution; and
- 7 (c) introducing the regenerated pickling solution into the pickling
- 8 solution;
- 9 In which: